



## Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting Monday, June 13, 2016, 6:00 PM Council Chambers

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### Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.  
Councilman Billy G. Richardson  
Councilman Benton Blakely  
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson  
Councilman AC English  
County Administrator, David W. Epperson

**Press in attendance:** Konstantin Vengerowsky, The Item, Robert Baker, The Manning Times

### Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Patricia Pringle	Tammy Rodvansky	Carole Summers	George Summers
Jill Torrey	Annie Felder	Josephine King	Pro Prothro	Mary Cooper
Charlotte Johnston	Julius Adger	Loretta Pollard	Carrie Anna Strange	Ericka Floyd
Linda Lemon	Jamie Welch	Seth Land	And other Clarendon County Residents	

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

### I. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Stewart asked for an approval of the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Council Meeting Agenda for June 13, 2016.

### II. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on May 9, 2016 with corrections.

### III. Board Appointment

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to reappoint Mr. Walter L. (Sonny) Sanders to the Clarendon County Disabilities and Special Needs Board to serve another 4-year term.

### IV. Agreement

Administrator Epperson presented Council with an Agreement between Clarendon County Detention Center and the South Carolina Department of Corrections. He stated that this agreement has to be approved annually and the terms are the same as the prior year agreement.

On Motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agreement between Clarendon County Detention Center and the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

### V. Presentations

a. Mr. Pro Prothro, President of Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce, presented Council with a presentation relating to the Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Promotion Initiative. He stated that the Chamber is asking for funding for the I-95 Corridors. Mr. Prothro stated that Clarendon County has six and a half Interchanges and over 10 million vehicles passes those corridors yearly. Mr. Prothro concluded his presentation by requesting funding from the Tax Accommodation Fund to

fund the Clarendon County Tourism Marketing Program.

Administrator Epperson stated that the Tax Accommodation Fund comes from an overnight stay in Hotels in Clarendon County. He continued by stating that \$25,000 of the Tax Accommodation Fund goes to the General Fund and 30% goes to Non-Profit Agencies. Administrator Epperson stated that any Organization that meets the criteria could request funding.

b. Mr. Prothro presented Council with a proposal that he thought would benefit the County as well as Clarendon County Chamber members. He continued by requesting that Council add a question on the November ballot allowing the public to vote on the "Sale of Alcohol on Sunday". Mr. Prothro stated that the following Counties already approved this referendum:

Beaufort, Berkley, Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Newberry, Richland, York, Colleton, Greenwood, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Marion, Oconee, and Saluda. He further stated that Chester and Spartanburg Counties are in the process of the same reform.

Mr. Prothro continued by stating that the sale of alcohol on Sundays will attract more businesses to the area and would allow our local businesses to thrive with the tourist traffic that our lake recruits. He further stated that if this referendum is placed on the November ballot and is approved by the public, this would attract economic growth to our community. Mr. Prothro concluded his proposal by stating that the Clarendon County Chamber Board would act as the Public Relations Agency and handle all advertising and promotion. He stated that the Chamber Board is requesting the approval from Council to add the referendum on the November ballot.

## **VI. Clarendon County Accommodations Tax Fund**

a. Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, requested Council to authorize funding to the Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Promotion Initiative in the amount of \$38,000. He stated that the State of South Carolina collects Accommodation Taxes from businesses and 30% of those funds could be appropriated to any Non-Profit Organization that presents a plan to Clarendon County Council. He stated that funds from the Accommodations Taxes must be used for promotional purposes. Mr. Anthony further stated that all cost associated with I-95 Exit 119 was paid from the Accommodation Tax Fund.

On Motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Mr. Anthony to authorize \$38,000 to the Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Promotion Initiative.

b. Mr. Anthony requested Council's approval to authorize the transfer of \$7,500 from the Accommodations Tax Fund to Santee Cooper Country for out-of-area Promotional activities.

On Motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Mr. Anthony authorizing the transfer of \$7,500 from the Accommodations Tax Fund to the Santee Cooper Country out-of-area Promotional activities.

c. Mr. Anthony requested Council's approval to transfer \$10,000 to Weldon Auditorium for out of area advertising.

On Motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Mr. Anthony authorizing the transfer of \$10,000 to Weldon Auditorium for out of area advertising.

d. Mr. Anthony further requested Council's approval to transfer \$42,000 to the County's General Fund for operation and maintenance of the I-95 Exit 119 beautification Project.

On Motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Mr. Anthony authorizing the transfer of \$42,000 to the General Fund for operation and maintenance of the I-95 Exit 119 Beautification Project.

## **VII. Hospitality Fee Fund**

Mr. Anthony presented Council with a request to use an amount not to exceed \$8,250 from the Hospitality Fee Fund for the Palmetto Trail 301 Greenway Project. He stated that the Hospitality Fee Fund comes from 1% of prepared foods and beverages.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Mr. Anthony to use an amount not to exceed \$8,250 from the Hospitality Fee Fund for the Palmetto Trail 301 Greenway Project.

#### **VIII. Clarendon County Transportation Committee (CCTC)**

Chairman Stewart stated that County Council serves as the CCTC. He further stated that the CCTC is now in session. The CCTC opened at 6:40 pm.

a. Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to resurface Dingle Pond Road in an amount not to exceed \$113,788.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Administrator Epperson to resurface Dingle Pond Road in an amount not to exceed \$113,788.

b. Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to resurface Country Club Circle in an amount not to exceed \$130,000.

On Motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Administrator Epperson to resurface Country Club Circle in an amount not to exceed \$130,000.

c. Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request to purchase materials to produce road signage in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. He stated that about 50 of the signs that were made by the County are missing.

On Motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Administrator Epperson to purchase materials to produce road signage in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

d. Administrator Epperson presented Council with a request for the design and construction of Spigner Road Extension.

On Motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the request made by Administrator Epperson for the design and construction of Spigner Road Extension.

Chairman Stewart stated that the CCTC would now close. The CCTC closed at 6:49 pm.

#### **IX. Ordinance 2016-03**

Administrator Epperson presented Council with an Ordinance requesting that a Referendum be placed on the November ballot allowing the citizens to vote on the question as to whether or not alcoholic liquors should be sold on Sundays.

Consideration was given to the First Reading of Ordinance 2016-03, An Ordinance ordering a Referendum to determine whether the South Carolina Department of Revenue may issue temporary permits to allow for the possession sale and consumption of alcoholic liquors by the drink to Bona Fide Nonprofit Organizations and business establishment authorized to be licensed for consumption-on-premises sales and to allow the sale of beer and wine at permitted off-premises locations without regard to the days or hours of sales.

On Motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2016-03, An Ordinance ordering a Referendum to determine whether the South Carolina Department of Revenue may issue temporary permits to allow for the possession sale and consumption of alcoholic liquors by the drink to Bona Fide Nonprofit Organizations and business establishment authorized to be licensed for consumption-on-premises sales and to allow the sale of beer and wine at permitted off-premises locations without regard to the days or hours of sales.

#### **X. Ordinance 2016-02**

Mr. Anthony presented Council with a balanced budget. He thanked the staff of the Finance Department, Department Managers, Elected Officials, and the Members of the community that assisted in producing the balanced budget. Mr. Anthony continued by recognizing the efforts of Ms. Tammy Rodvansky, of the Finance Department. He stated that since 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Council requested that the proposed Road User Fee be reduced to \$35 per year for each registered vehicle. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the budget for Third Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 0.12% for County operations. He further stated that we have increased the funding from the state Local Government Fund by \$77,000. Because the state has not provided what they were required to, we have shifted that burden to the citizens of the county.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that we are recommending that Council adopt a Local Option Sales Tax credit back to our taxpayers in the amount of \$2,500,000 of which \$100,000 will come from a reduction in the LOST Reserve. He continued by stating that the total General Fund revenues are anticipated to be \$20,765,485 which is balanced with General Fund expenditures. In addition, the budget contains a 1.5% Cost of Living Increase for the County employees effective July 1, 2016 as well as the State retirement increased by a half percent on both employees and employers.

Mr. Anthony further stated that In terms of intra-fund transfers, the budget maintains taxpayer support for Weldon Auditorium at \$15,000 in the upcoming FY from the General Fund and \$10,000 from the Accommodations Tax Fund. we are requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund maintain its level of operational support at \$100,000 making up the difference as allowed by state statute. He stated that the budget reflects a 1.0 mill increase for Fire service operations. This increase will allow the Fire service to acquire necessary equipment annually to reduce the average age of its response fleet.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that we are requesting that a \$2,000,000 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes. We have included a new County debt in the form of a five (5) year capital lease in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping four (4) new patrol vehicles for the Sheriff's department.

Mr. Anthony concluded his presentation by stating that the following expenses are included in the FY2017 Budget:

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 20,765,485</b>
<b>General County Debt</b>	<b>843,115</b>
<b>FE Dubose Vocational Tech.</b>	<b>210,000</b>
<b>Fire Operating</b>	<b>3,011,400</b>
<b>Fire Debt</b>	<b>105,163</b>
<b>Admin Complex Debt service</b>	<b>489,615</b>
<b>Courthouse Debt service</b>	<b><u>262,300</u></b>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 25,687,078</b>
<b>Water &amp; Sewer (operational expense)</b>	<b>491,917</b>
<b>Weldon Auditorium (operational expense)</b>	<b>213,000</b>

#### **School District One:**

- Total proposed expenditures of \$7,119,537 with the state authorized millage increase of 0.12% and no TAN, they anticipate utilizing \$385,069 from available fund balance.

#### **School District Two:**

- Total proposed expenditures of \$19,456,716 with state authorized millage increase of 0.12% and no TAN, they anticipate utilizing \$1,262,237 from available fund balance.

#### **School District Three:**

- With total proposed expenditures of \$8,391,806, they have requested no millage increase or TAN. Additionally, they do not anticipate reducing available fund balance.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2016-02, An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016, and Ending June 30, 2017, to Direct the Expenditures of said Taxes and Other Funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be Followed during Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016, and Ending June 30, 2017.

## **XI. Financial Report**

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his report by stating that the General Fund had Expenditures of \$1,556,363 and Revenue of \$1,532,002 for the month of May 2016.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the Weldon Auditorium total Revenue for the month of May was \$46,839, and total Expenses of \$189,971. He stated that after transfers from the General Fund, Accommodation taxes and Hospitality Taxes in the amount of \$125,000, the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of May with a deficit of \$18,132.

Mr. Anthony further stated that the Water and Sewer Department had Operating Revenue of \$646,666 and Operating Expenses of \$367,719 as of May 31, 2016. He stated that after depreciation, transfers, interest income, and Grant Revenue totaling \$411,544, the Water and Sewer Department had Net Utility income of \$690,491.

Mr. Anthony concluded his report by stating that the C-Fund Program for the month of April 2016 had a Cash Balance of \$4,322,592 of which \$4,100,969 has been committed to remaining local paving projects, State Construction Projects in Progress and State Proviso Funds.

## **XII. Administrator's Report**

Administrator Epperson began his report by giving Council an update on the following projects:

- USDA Phase 1B – Project is nearing completion.
- USDA Phase 1C – Project is complete and permit to operate has been received.
- USDA Phase II – Awaiting final approval of engineering agreement with USDA.
- Long Term Assistance – The group continuing to meet and identify resources so assistance can be provided to the residents of the tri-county area.
- Work on heavily damaged roads by the Private Contractors is complete.
- Financial –Reimbursements have been submitted to FEMA and SCEMD and these payments are continuing to come in.
- Road Paving – Roads scheduled for paving through the County's portion of C-Funding for 2015 have been completed. The 2016 projects preliminary design estimates have been received with projects to begin in the fall.
- The C-Fund Proviso projects bid has been completed and we anticipate work to begin in the fall.
- Althea Gibson Governmental Services Center – the project has been awarded to Thompson Turner Construction of Sumter. Design and costs estimates are being finalized and we anticipate construction to begin in the fall.
- We are still awaiting wetlands approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Once approved, Santee Cooper and the County would be ready to move forward with the Wyboo Fire Station Project.

## **XIII. Chairman's Report**

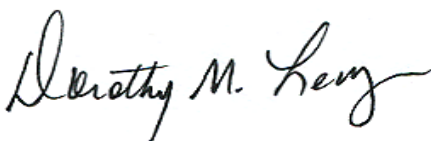
Chairman Stewart stated that he enjoyed the County Picnic on June 9.

## **XIV. Adjournment**

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he asked for a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous approval to adjourn the Council meeting. The Council Meeting ended at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy  
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

